

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/822,228

Examiner

Thierry L. Pham

Applicant(s)

NAKAYASU ET AL.

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to AF filed 12/28/06 and Authorized Examiner's amendment dated 2/2/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are claims 19-34 are allowed (renumbered as claims 1-16).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: Amendment after Final filed on 12/28/06 and Authorized Examiner's amendment dated 2/2/07.
- Claims 1-18 had been previously canceled.
- As the results of authorized Examiner's amendment, claims 19-34 are allowed (renumbered as claims 1-16), and claims 35-36 are canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 19-34 are allowable over prior arts of record; renumbered as claims 1-16.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The combined prior arts (US 6522971 to Tanaka and US 6247130 to Fritsch) of record teach a method for locating a print service agent based upon a user's location, however, the combined references fail to teach and/or suggest "retrieving a plurality of most recently used printing agent printer sites selected in the past by the user indicated by the user ID in response to determining that the user indicated by the user ID has used the printing agent service in the past; sending to the client terminal, as candidates for printing agent printer sites to be selected by the user, information indicating the plurality of most recently used printing agent printer sites selected in the past by the user indicated by the user ID ***and in combinations of other features***" as cited in independent claims 19 & 20 (renumbered as claims 1-2). The examiner found neither prior art cited in its entirety, nor based on the prior art, found any motivation to combine any of prior arts that teaches the above limitations and in combinations of other features cited in claims 19 & 20 (renumbered as claims 1-2).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thierry L. Pham



DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER



EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Williams Schertler on 2/2/07.

Please amend the following claims:

19. (Currently Amended) A printing agent service method, comprising:

receiving a print request and a user ID from a client terminal;

determining whether the user indicated by the user ID has used the printing agent service in the past;

retrieving a ~~predetermined number~~ plurality of most recently used printing agent printer sites selected in the past by the user indicated by the user ID in response to determining that the user indicated by the user ID has used the printing agent service in the past;

sending to the client terminal, as candidates for printing agent printer sites to be selected by the user, information indicating the ~~predetermined number~~ plurality of most recently used printing agent printer sites selected in the past by the user indicated by the user ID;

receiving location information from the client terminal when the user ID indicates that the user has not used the printing agent service in the past;

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retrieving ~~, in response to the location information,~~ a printing agent printer site nearest to a location of the client terminal based on the location information obtained in response to the user ID indicating that the user has not used the printing agent service in the past;

sending to the client terminal, as a candidate for a printing agent printer site to be selected by a user, information indicating the printing agent printer site nearest to the location of the client terminal in response to receiving the location information;

selecting a printer agent printing site from the candidate site(s) sent to the client terminal;

receiving the printing agent printer site selected by the client terminal, and sending print data of the print request to a printer at the selected printing agent printer site; and

printing the print data at the selected printing agent printer site when a client who has sent the print request instructs printout at the selected printing agent printer site.

20. (Currently Amended) A printing agent service system, comprising:

a client terminal to specify a print request, location information and a user ID;

a database for storing printing agent printer sites; and

a server for receiving the print request, the location information and the user ID from the client terminal, and for controlling printing of the print request at a printing agent printer site,

wherein the server determines whether the user indicated by the user ID has used the printing agent service system in the past, and, in response to determining that the user indicated by the user ID has used the printing agent service system in the past, retrieves from the database and sends to the client terminal a ~~predetermined number~~ plurality of most recently used printing

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agent printer sites selected in the past by the user indicated by the user ID as candidates for selection by the user,

wherein the server retrieves from the database and sends to the client terminal, as a candidate for selection by the user, a printing agent printer site nearest to the location of the client terminal ~~in accordance with~~ based on the location information if the server determines that the user indicated by the user ID has not used the printing agent service in the past,

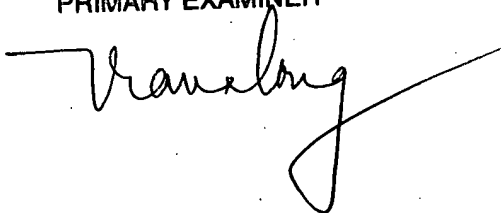
wherein the server receives from the client terminal a selected printing agent printer site, and sends print information of the print request to a printer at the specified printing agent printer site; and

wherein the printer performs a printout at the selected printing agent printer site when a client who has sent the print request instructs the printout at the selected printing agent printer site.

35 (Canceled).

36 (Canceled).

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Q. Tran', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.